

BOOK REVIEWS

Aids to Dermatology. By Robert M. B. MacKenna and E. Lipman Cohen. 5th ed., 1956. Pp. viii + 312, 4 illus. Baillière, Tindall, and Cox, London. (10s. 6d.).

This is the fifth edition of this handy little textbook since it was first published 27 years ago and this in itself is a convincing demonstration of its continued popularity. It contains an admirable summing up of the essentials in diagnosis, technique, and treatment of most of the dermatoses. Recent advances in treatment such as the use of the corticosteroids are given a balanced survey. These potent weapons, which have their dangers as well as their advantages, are mentioned but not stressed, and it must be remembered that this is a book written mainly for the student or newly qualified doctor.

The single chapter devoted to the cutaneous manifestations of the venereal diseases is of necessity brief and not intended to be comprehensive and here, as throughout the book, one does feel the need for illustrations. However, this is still literally a "pocket edition" and, especially if used with a skin atlas, will prove a most practical addition to the student's and practitioner's library and excellent value for the money.

A. J. G.

Cutaneous and Venereal Diseases and their Ocular Complications. By G. Sala and P. Noto. 1956. Pp. 410, bibl. Flaccovio, Palermo.

This is a well written and easily read book dealing with the ophthalmological complications of diseases of the skin and venereal diseases. Each condition is discussed in considerable detail and there is a very useful bibliography. The chapters discuss seriatim the following conditions: epithelial dystrophies, mesenchymal dystrophies, dermatoses due to allergy and sensitization, parasitic dermatoses, infective dermatoses (including the more common infections, virus infections, tuberculosis, leprosy, yaws, and so on), general infective syndromes, idiopathic dermatoses, deficiency dermatoses (pellagra, ariboflavinosis, etc.), constitutional syndromes (acne, xanthoma, lipoproteinosis, and so on), precancerous dermatoses, cutaneous tumours (simple and malignant), congenital dystrophies, haematopoietic dermatoses (cutaneous leukaemia, mycosis fungoides), haemorrhagic syndromes, pigmentary alterations, and venereal diseases.

S. D.-E.